

Message Text

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42

ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 /012 W
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R 121158Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0138

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4182

STATE FOR CU/EE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJ: 1974-75 INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM

REF: BUCHAREST 3226

1. DURING A CALL ON PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL FOR SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION DUMITRU POPESCU SEPTEMBER 5, AMBASSADOR RAISED SUBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM AND EXPRESSED EMBASSY HOPES THAT ROMANIANS WOULD CONTINUE PARTICIPATION DURING 1974-75. POPESCU DENIED THAT LACK OF ROMANIAN NOMINATIONS IMPLIED ANY GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH U.S.-ROMANIAN EXCHANGES BUT EXPLAINED SITUATIONS DUE TO RECENT PARTY DECISION TO "RESTRICT" ABSENCES BY ROMANIAN CULTURAL FIGURES FROM ROMANIA TO PERIODS LESS THAN THREE MONTHS. IF U.S. WERE TO ARRANGE WRITER'S PROGRAM FOR SUCH A PERIOD, ROMANIANS WOULD BE GLAD TO PARTICIPATE, ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED IOWA PROGRAM COULD NOT BE TAILORED TO ROMANIAN NEEDS ALONE, POPESCU MAINTAINED THAT PARTY DECISION PROVIDED FOR NO EXCEPTIONS. POPESCU ALSO ALLEGED SOME DISSATISFACTION ON PART OF PREVIOUS ROMANIAN PARTICIPANTS IN IOWA WORKSHOP WITH HAVING TO SPEND ALMOST ALL THEIR TIME AT ONE LOCATION AND WITH COMPANY OF MOSTLY FOREIGN WRITERS "LIKE KOREANS."

2. COMMENT: WE SEE ABSOLUTELY NO CHANCE OF GETTING ROMANIAN WRITERS TO IOWA FOR MORE THAN THREE MONTHS. REQUEST CU CONTACT PAUL ENGLE TO SEE IF THREE MONTH PERIOD PRESENTS ANY INTEREST. EVEN IF IT DOES, HE SHOULD BE CAUTIONED THAT ROMANIANS MAY WELL
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WANT TO SPEND PROPORTIONALLY LESS TIME AT IOWA. WE WOULD LIKE

TO TRY TO SALVAGE ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION BUT NOT AT ANY PRICE.
BARNES

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NNN

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